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# Hiss: FBI Withheld Key Facts

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NEW YORK, March 19—Alger Hess said today that hundreds of newly released documents proved that the FBI witheld key information from his perjury trial and failed to clarify evidence against him in court.

The former State Department official, who served 44 months in prison for perjury after being charged with participating in a 1938 Soviet spy conspiracy, said the FBI knew that:

• The typewriter introduced at his 1949-50 trial was different than the one once owned by him and his wife, Priscilla.

• The couple had given away the typewriter alleged to have been used in the espionage, several months before it was supposedly utilized to copy government secrets.

"The FBI knew early on what we didn't know—because we didn't know its significance until after the conviction—that the typewriter that had been given to my wife from her father-in-law's office when he retired was bought in 1928," Hiss said in an interview this afternoon.

The typewriter introduced at the trial was actually manufactured a year later, he said. "It sat in court as mute witness, without the government ever introducing any evidence that it was 'the' typewriter," Hiss said. "I guess they knew better."

Further, he reiterated his Thursday statement here that the FBI "was well aware" that the original typewriter had been given to the family of a former maid in the Hiss household months before any of the alleged activities took place.

Hiss' statements are the latest in his 26-year effort to clear his name. Since his conviction following charges by the late Whittaker Chambers that he stole documents from the State Department to pass on to Soviet agents, lawyer Hiss, 71 has sought to uncover evidence supporting his innocence.

A turning point in that effort was reached in January when some 15,000 documents previously kept secret by the FBI were released.

Hiss declined to comment in depth on statements by Allen Weinstein—a Smith College professor and expert on the trial whose Freedom on Information Act suit gained the release of the FBI documents—that his review of all the papers, including defense documents proved Hiss had been lying about his dealings with Chambers, a confessed communist spy.

"All I'll say is that I think it's clear that he has had a biased point of view for some time," Hiss said. "He was presumptuous in never asking my attorneys how they felt about the newly released documentation."